

REMARKS

Claims 2-4, 6-9, 13, 14, 17 and 18 are pending in this application. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested to place this application in condition for allowance.

The Objection to and Rejection of Claim 14

Claim 14 is objected to and rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for informalities which are corrected by amendment herein. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and rejection are respectfully requested.

The Rejections Under Prior Art

1. Claims 1-4, 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,748,436 (“Honma et al.”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,710,407 (“Moore”) and U.S. Patent No. 6,143,081 (“Shinriki et al.”).

2. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Honma et al. in view of Moore and Shinriki et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,793,767 (“Chu et al.”).

3. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Honma et al. in view of Moore and Shinriki et al., and further in view of U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0185487 (“Divakar et al.”).

4. Claims 12, 15, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Honma et al. in view of Moore, Shinriki et al. And Divakar et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,478,429 (“Komino et al.”).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 13 and 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 14 would be allowable if amended to cure the informalities noted above.

The Amendments

As indicated above, claim 14 is amended to cure the informalities identified in the Office Action. Claims 13 and 17 are placed into independent form by amendment herein and substantially incorporate the recitations of base claim 1 and intervening claim 11.

Claim 1 is cancelled. Claims 2-4, 6, and 8 are amended to change dependency from claim 1 to claim 13.

Claims 11 and 12, 15 and 17 are cancelled.

Withdrawn claim 18 is amended to depend from allowable claim 13. Rejoinder and allowance of claim 18 are respectfully requested.

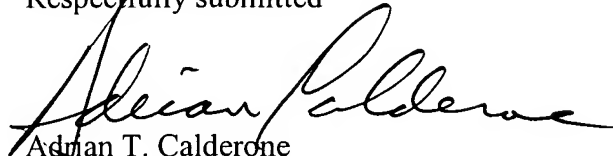
Withdrawn claims 19-26 are cancelled.

It is respectfully submitted that upon entry of this amendment the above noted rejections are obviated and all of the pending claims will be in condition for allowance, said entry being respectfully requested as no new issues are raised.

CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons stated above all of the pending claims are submitted to be in condition for allowance, the same being respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adrian T. Calderone". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Adrian" being more prominent than the last name "Calderone".

Adrian T. Calderone

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